



# BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 19.15 Thursday, April 11, 2013

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

## VBT board approves agreement with Interim Director Arthur Mullen

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
*Independent Editor*

Arthur F. Mullen, who has been serving as Interim Director of Planning and Economic Development since Feb. 11, finally had his employment agreement approved by the Van Buren Township Board at its regular meeting April 2.

VBT Supervisor Linda Combs had brought Mullen's employment proposal to the Feb. 19 work study session of the board, but board members said they didn't have enough information on him and asked that the item be pulled from the board agenda.

At that time, Supervisor Combs had proposed \$7,000 a month as Mullen's pay. She said having a person in that position was very important and he started at once after Terry Carroll was pushed into resignation.



Mullen, who lives in Grosse Pointe, is on the board of the Michigan Downtown Association and is certified with the American Institute of Certified Planners.

He was laid off from an executive director's position at the Mount Clemens Downtown Development Authority last May for economic reasons. The DDA had less money coming in and no projects to give him to manage, an official said.

According to an interview with Mullen when he was with the Mount Clemens DDA, Mullen earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Hamilton College in Clinton, NY. He then earned a Master of Science degree in Historic Preservation at Columbia University.

His first full-time job was in the Planning and Development Department of the City of Detroit. Then he worked for four years with the MotorCities National Heritage Area

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Tyler Elementary School Principal Aleisa Pitt fulfilled her promise to kiss a pig if her students read 1,800 books during Reading Month in March. The month's theme was "Charlotte's Web" so pigs were on their minds. The children read more than 2,000 books, so on March 28 Principal Pitt went from classroom to classroom kissing Wilbur at every stop. Wilbur was a baby pig brought in from her farm by Savage teacher Lisa Preuss. "I never saw anyone kiss a pig before," said Melissa from Mrs. Kurash's class.



Photo courtesy VBT Police Department

A home on Florence Lane was engulfed in flames when the Van Buren Township Fire Department arrived April 1.

## VBT house fire damages four other homes in Homestead subdivision

On Monday, April 1, Van Buren Township Fire Fighters were dispatched at 10:03 p.m. to battle a possible house fire in the 6400 block of Florence Lane in Homestead Subdivision, north of Ecorse Road.

The VBT Public Safety Communications Center began to receive multiple calls reporting flames visible on the second floor.

At 10:05 p.m. the South Duty responded in Engine 1 and Chief Dan Besson responded from his home in Belleville. Two other fire fighters came from their nearby homes.

The North Duty Crew, assigned to fire headquarters, was on a medical emergency involving a patient suffering from a serious ailment.

While responding, crews were advised that Van Buren Police Officers were on the scene and confirmed a working structure fire and the occupants could not be accounted for.

Chief Besson requested mutual aid from the Romulus Fire Department to send a Rapid Intervention Team – a crew set up to specifically rescue firefighters if they become lost or trapped during rescue operations.

Upon arrival at 10:14 p.m., Chief Besson said he found a two-story home was well-involved in fire and neighbors said the family was not home.

Engine 4 and Engine 1 arrived and began to set up operations to protect the surrounding homes, four of which were already damaged by the intense heat and wind conditions. Water was supplied to the fire engines at a hydrant opened and prepared by the first-arriving VBT police officers.

No injuries were reported and the loss is estimated at \$300,000. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

The Public Safety Chaplains were contacted to help set the family up with temporary housing and other needs.

1-800-Board-up, a private contractor, was requested to help secure the portions of the home damaged by the fire and also provide the family some assistance.

In addition to the Romulus Fire Department, the City of Belleville and Canton Township

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# SECOND FRONT PAGE

## MRSA case leads to VBT warning to public who received EMS care

When a Van Buren Township fire fighter developed MRSA after treating a patient with the communicable disease, VBT issued a warning to the public who received emergency medical services from March 2 through April 5.

VBT recommends that anyone who has received emergency medical service from township fire fighters between these dates and exhibits a skin rash seek medical attention.

On March 2 while responding to a call, fire

fighters assisted a resident who revealed she had an active case of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus or MRSA.

Following this incident, the staff documented the MRSA contact and reported it to the Wayne County Health Department.

Subsequently, one of the fire fighters who responded to the March 2 call for emergency medical service developed a classic sore and sought medical attention. On April 5, the sore was confirmed to be

MRSA.

VBT Fire Chief Dan Besson immediately notified all fire personnel who had been in contact with this fire fighter. Fire stations were immediately scheduled to be professionally cleaned by a contracted company that uses EPA-approved antibacterial cleanser that has a specific disinfectant cleaner for MRSA.

Chief Besson said while this is an isolated MRSA case at this point, given the length of time between the initial contact and the

diagnosis, VBT is taking precaution and notifying the public.

Given the close contact public safety personnel have with the frequently health-compromised general public, infectious or otherwise communicable diseases are inherent, but staff works carefully to ensure safety, he said.

For more information on MRSA, see [www.CDC.gov/MRSA/prevent/personal.html](http://www.CDC.gov/MRSA/prevent/personal.html), or contact the Wayne County Health Department at 734-727-7100.

## Arbitration ruling reinstates Van Buren Township police officer

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

David Champagne, who was fired as a Van Buren Township Police Officer Feb. 6, 2012, was put back to work in January 2013 following a 33-page arbitration ruling that said the penalty was too harsh for his infraction.

Arbitrator Stanley T. Dobry reduced the discharge to a 60-hour suspension.

He ordered Champagne reinstated without loss of seniority and that he be made whole in accord with the collective bargaining agreement for all lost wages, benefits, seniority, and other emoluments of office.

The union contract provides that the arbitrator's decision is final and binding upon the parties and Dobry retains jurisdiction in the event of a dispute as to the meaning or application of the award.

Officer Champagne was accused of perjury for failing to mark a box on a computerized form that had to be changed with each new case when seeking a warrant for a drunk driving arrest blood draw.

In his findings, Arbitrator Dobry said these computerized forms should be "idiot proof" and not require the officers to redo the form with each new case and uncheck boxes that were checked for the last case.

According to Dobry's findings, Champagne immediately admitted his mistake when it was found and admitted that he (1) failed to comply with the legal requirement that he read a person arrested for suspected OWI his chemical test rights before obtaining a blood, breath or urine test – whether it be of the suspect's choosing or by court order because the driver refused, and (2) that he had submitted an erroneous document that stated he had read the suspect his chemical test rights. This sworn affidavit was used to secure a search warrant to obtain a blood test.

Director of Public Safety Carl McClanahan found the evidence demonstrated that Officer Champagne falsified paperwork and committed perjury with his affidavit used to secure the search warrant.

"Relying on the VBT PD policies, standards of conduct, and Michigan law, he [McClanahan] decided that there was just cause warranting immediate termination," Dobry wrote.

Dobry found, "The penalty is clearly punitive, not rehabilitative and corrective, and is disproportionate to the offenses proved."

He said Champagne, who had worked as a police officer since July 2008 and was a paid-on-call VBT fire fighter for nine years, "has an essentially clean disciplinary record."

Dobry made his finding after considering all the testimony, the exhibits, and the manner and form of the testimony, and the demeanor of witnesses.

There were seven witnesses: Mark Buckberry, Michael Papin, Ken Toney, Louis Keele, Greg Laurain, McClanahan, and Champagne.

On Jan. 15, 2012 Champagne was on the midnight shift, 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. At about 1:30 a.m., he made a traffic stop for excessive speed.

He smelled the odor of intoxicants on the driver and investigated a suspected drunk driving offense. The driver's slurred speech and bloodshot eyes were consistent with excessive alcohol consumption and he admitted to consuming six or seven drinks.

In the first field sobriety test – counting backwards – the driver stopped and flatly stated: "I'm not blowing in anything, I'm not taking any more tests, just take me to jail." He was arrested and transported to the station.

Officer Champagne contacted Sgt. Papin and advised his supervising officer that he had brought in a driver suspected of Operating While Intoxicated 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense.

He stated his intention to seek a search warrant to obtain a blood sample from the driver since he was up for a third offense and had refused to cooperate with any testing. He and Sgt. Papin conferred about how to best proceed.

Lt. Buckberry walked in on the conversation. The exact timing of his involvement is disputed, as is the precise words, content and meaning of the conversation.

Lt. Buckberry asked Officer Champagne if he had read the arrested suspect the chemical test rights. Officer Champagne replied, "no." Champagne stated that "he's already refused everything else, he's going to refuse the breath test." Buckberry advised Champagne to read the advice of Chemical Rights to the driver, then to obtain a warrant if necessary.

Buckberry now recalls he told Officer Champagne that if the driver refused the breath test after being read his chemical test rights, then Champagne could proceed with preparing the search warrant and securing a blood sample.

Champagne does not remember it that way. In light of the suspect's refusal to take any further tests, he interpreted the reading of chemical rights as a vain act; and he believed it would be superseded by the issuance of a search warrant.

He did this based upon recent experience in another OUIL, which was considered to be serious at the time as one of the drivers was considered to be a potential fatality.

Champagne filled out the search warrant template provided by the department. In doing so, he used the last warrant request he had participated in and made changes on the filled-in form. He checked and/or unchecked various boxes and information.

Upon completing the warrant, he sent it via computer to Sgt. Papin who forwarded it to the Wayne County Prosecutor and the Magistrate's Office. Champagne contacted the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney over the phone and was asked some general questions, but did not review the warrant line by line. The prosecutor OKed the warrant and the Magistrate was then contacted. The Magistrate signed the warrant and returned it to Champagne and Champagne took the driver to obtain the blood to check the driver's alcohol level

based upon the warrant.

After the blood draw, Champagne began filling out the reports for his drunk driving arrest, and he realized he could not complete Secretary of State DI-93 form reporting a refusal to submit to a chemical test. He came to the part where it required acknowledgement that the suspect driver was requested to take a chemical test and realized he could not complete that form because he had not expressly read to the driver his statutory chemical test right.

He took the form to dispatch to have the information entered on the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) and the refusal was discussed and Champagne realized he made a mistake.

He promptly advised Lt. Buckberry of his failure to read the chemical test rights. Lt. Buckberry reviewed the initial reports and told Champagne to add to his report that he had not read the chemical rights to the suspect driver, which he did.

At the start of the next shift it was discovered the search warrant box indicating chemical test rights were read was incorrectly checked on the warrant. In light of all the paperwork, Lt. Buckberry concluded that Champagne lied under oath in his affidavit. He also found Champagne had not completed the DI-93 form, leaving blank the section confirming he read his chemical test rights.

Lt. Buckberry notified the detective assigned to the case of his finding. The prosecutor's office opted to drop the OWI 3<sup>rd</sup> Felony prosecution and the arrestee got off with only a misdemeanor ticket for Driving While License Suspended.

Director of Public Safety McClanahan directed Lt. Buckberry to conduct an investigation and Buckberry listed ten charges against Champagne. A hearing followed and then the termination.

McClanahan had sole authority to determine the violations and the penalty. He did not find Champagne guilty of charges 1 through 9, but only upon charge

(continued on page 11)

# OPINIONS

## Editorial

### Later Gator Landscaping is sweet for Sumpter

At Tuesday's meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, Later Gator Landscaping was hired – again – to cut grass for senior citizens this summer.

There was only one bid and Later Gator bid the same as the last two seasons.

The company tried to offer a 3% discount if the township would give them a two-year contract, but CDBG doesn't allow that.

The senior citizen grass is cut with federal funds – Community Development Block Grant money – and you have to follow CDBG rules closely or you won't get the funds.

The township had received a letter from township hall employees asking that the 40-year-old bushes around the building be removed. The bushes are attacking residents when they come in to do business, drawing blood, and having people asking for bandages.

The DPW or someone else was going to pull up the old bushes so new landscaping could be put in place. Later Gator offered to remove the bushes without charge, if they could use the landfill for disposal of them. No problem. Everyone's happy.

Meanwhile the township will seek out landscapers to help with a plan. And this is a good time to put handicap access at the back door, along with new sidewalks. The handicap access part using CDBG.

It's fun to watch Sumpter officials solve problems and it's great to see businesses pitch in where needed.

## EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

Van Buren Township is planning to have most of its parking lot resurfaced at the township hall this summer. VBT also plans to have most of the roof at township hall redone this summer.

There were some concerns among township board members as to whether the two projects would be taking place at the same time.

On April 2 Tom MacDonald was at his last township board meeting as DPW Director trying to get the two projects approved before he left – his “ducks in a row”.

His deputy director Jim Taylor will be filling in until they get a new director, so Taylor will be handling the parking lot and roof projects.

Taylor is used to big projects since he formerly was water director for the City of Dearborn. Wade Trim engineers will help him.

It is imperative that the employees and the public can get in and out of the township hall this summer, so some strategic planning is taking place. The parking lot resurfacing shouldn't take long and the roof work should take a couple of weeks, we're told.

\*\*\*

Last Thursday, after I finished delivering my *Independents*, I flew to San Francisco to drive up to Santa Rosa to see my sister Ann in the Kaiser Permanente Hospital there.

She was very ill when I arrived, but as the weekend progressed, she was much better. On Sunday, I left her in the care of her family and flew back home.

I don't fly much anymore. I know the planes get you there fast, but what a lot



of monkey business. Also, the planes are more tightly packed these days and don't have the nice, free meals and movies for the whole plane or for individuals. Ah, the olden days were fun.

While I was waiting to board my plane at Metro on Thursday afternoon, there were several announcements over the public address system that advised the person who took the wrong shoes from the TSA screening area to bring them back.

Apparently, the shiny black leather shoes didn't come back since the announcement went on and on and on.

When we were boarding a plane in San Francisco for Kansas City on Sunday, we were told to stop because they had to clean the inside of the plane. Someone had written all over the inside with crayons. The boarding passengers were advised that if any of us had crayons on us to keep them in our carry-ons and take them home to draw on our own walls. Got a little testy, there.

In Charlotte, North Carolina the air terminal has trash bins that are just that. The sign said to throw in paper, food, cans, whatever and, “We'll do the sorting.” In San Francisco's airport there are three or four bins in each area and passengers are supposed to do their own sorting.

I'm sure I'll think of other things to pass on, but for now, those were some of the highlights of my travels.

\*\*\*

Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor told me that my little comment in this column last week -- about the police Humvee still being in camouflage while the fire department Humvee was painted bright red and looking real pretty -- brought him a phone call from a local business. The businessman told Chief Taylor that they want to make the police Humvee look nice, too.

Chief Taylor was pleased. He said the businessman asked where the Humvee was stored and Taylor said since it was camouflaged it was parked right out in public but you just can't see it.

Chief Taylor had told me in the past that it was parked in an undisclosed location.

\*\*\*

When I was in California, I went over the Golden Gate Bridge at night, in the fog, but it still was a big thrill. What a structure. My nephew George, who thoughtfully drove two hours to pick me up, said the water is really far below us. I was glad that it was night and foggy, since I'm not crazy about high bridges.

My son Bill told me the Golden Gate Bridge isn't as long as the Mackinac Bridge, so not to get too impressed. The Golden Gate is pretty, though.

\*\*\*

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## Letters

### Very sad: School district charges Little League

To the Editor:

On Saturday, I was at Beck Fields registering my children to play softball and baseball and I was told something that I found absolutely appalling. I asked when try-outs were for baseball and was told April 13, but that's not the appalling part. Once I asked where try-outs were being held I was told "probably here at Beck because the school district now charges us to use the gym."

Are you serious? All the kids that I know that play for Belleville AREA Little League are ALL students in the Van Buren School District and the surrounding communities of Belleville, Van Buren Township and Sumpter Township.

I cannot believe that these children will have to try-out outside in the cold for a "rec" sport. I will bet any money that the high school players don't have to try-out in the cold or pay to use the gym and I also know for a fact that when the Belleville baseball and softball teams needed a home field to play while the school was being finished they played at Beck Fields at NO cost and the Belleville AREA Little League supplied toilet paper for the bathrooms that BOTH teams used.

Whose ever stupid idea this was to charge Belleville Area Little League to use a gym for one lousy day for try-outs should be ashamed of themselves and better never say that they support our community children because I think all you or they care about is the money.

Very, very sad in my opinion.

Very Disgusted  
Pamela Jessip  
Van Buren Township

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## We're having our fashion show this spring

To the Editor:

For years the Belleville Area Women's Club (formerly the Business and Professional Women's Club) held a fashion show in the fall. This year we have decided that spring would be a better time and Dress Barn of Canton is partnering with us.

This is a perfect time for a Ladies Night Out and we invite you for a night of food, fun, fashion and fellowship.

Spring Fling Fashions will be held on Wednesday, April 24 at Woodlands of Van Buren on Ecorse Road. In addition to the fashions, there will be a Chinese and Silent Auction plus the all-time favorite - a money raffle.

Please join us for cocktails and conversation at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. and the Fashion Show at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$30 per person with a cash bar. The proceeds benefit the BAWC's Community and Education Fund.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Becky Thornell at 734-231-7326 or the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce at 734-697-7151.

Thank you in advance for supporting the club's scholarship fund.

Janet Millard

### Thank you for paying for my medicine

To the Editor:

To the person who paid for my medicine at Andrew's Save On Drugs on Belleville Rd. [Main St.], I want to say Thank You and that I really appreciated it. It really helped me out.

Thanks again and God Bless.

N.M., Belleville

### !!!OBJECTION!!! From a former sailor

Dear Editor

I object and take exception to everyone or anyone saying that the District Library, DDA, City of Belleville, Wayne County, Obama and Congress are spending money like a drunken sailor. As a former drunken sailor, I quit when I ran out of money!

Cornell Anton, Jr.  
Belleville

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## More Letters

### Communities Matter @ Your Library

To the Editor:

Help us celebrate National Library Week this April 14th through 20th at the Belleville Area District Library!

Throughout the week we will highlight the many ways our community works together with an exhibit of local nonprofit and civic organizations. Stop by and see the amazing things your neighbors accomplish and see how you can get involved.

The week will also be chock full of activities including daily trivia questions and children's activities, culminating in our Community Celebration on Saturday, April 20, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Eat cake, make connections, and watch the Belleville/World Premier of our Community Reads video.

Hilary Savage  
Adult Services Librarian  
Belleville Area District Library  
167 Fourth Street, (734) 699-3291

### Jalisa Harris named to Northwood U. Dean's List

Jalisa Harris of Belleville, a freshman at Northwood University in Midland, has been named to the Dean's List for the fall semester.



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# Obituaries



Leila Lowhorn

## LEILA LOWHORN

(September 24, 1921 - April 2, 2013)

Leila Lowhorn, age 91, of Belleville, MI passed away Tuesday, April 2, 2013 at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. She was born September 24, 1921 in Willow Grove TN, daughter of late Granville & Vella (Dennis) Taylor.

Leila is survived by her five children Ronnie (Ruth Ann) Lowhorn of Belleville, MI, Wanda (Glenn) Thurston of FL, Rosa (Gerald) Kuck of Taylor, MI, Jack Lowhorn of Inkster, MI, Jerry (Jennifer) Lowhorn of Belleville, MI, twenty-one grandchildren, twenty-six great-grandchildren, four and a half great-great-grandchildren, and a brother George Taylor of Cookeville, TN.

She is preceded in death by her husband George Lowhorn, daughter-in-law Debra Lowhorn, and brother Arthur Taylor.

Leila served in the Army as a Medical Technician in World War II. She was a resident of Belleville for more than fifty years. Leila kept her mind sharp with crossword puzzles, search-a-words, reading and crocheting doilies. Her greatest enjoyment was watching her family grow.

Visitation was Friday April 5, 2013, 2-4 P.M. and 6-8 P.M., Saturday April 6, 2013, 9-10 A.M. with a 10:00 A.M. Funeral service at the David C. Brown Temporary Viewing Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111. Burial followed at Knollwood Memorial Park.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Michigan Heart Foundation and would greatly be appreciated by the family.

Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for her family to treasure at [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com).

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Dawn Gentz

## DAWN MICHELLE GENTZ

(December 4, 1973 - April 2, 2013)

Dawn Michelle Gentz, age 39, a 20-year Van Buren Township, MI. resident, passed away at her home, surrounded by her loving family on Tuesday, April 2, 2013.

Dawn was born on December 4, 1973 in Saginaw, MI, daughter of Les Walter and Judy Koehn (Beaumont) Neinas.

She is survived by her husband Michael James Gentz and two sons, Preston and Matthew Gentz of Van Buren Township, MI; her mother Judith K. (Frank) Beaumont of Gibraltar, MI; her father Leslie W. (Linda) Neinas of Belleville, MI; one brother Scott Neinas of Monroe, MI; her mother- & father-in-law, Cathie & Gerald Gentz of Willis, MI; two sisters-in-law; Jennifer (Raymond) Deming and Kristin (Scott) Leduc, all of Belleville, MI. Also survived by her paternal grandmother Lavina Neinas, one niece Jordan & one nephew Raymond.

Dawn was of the Lutheran faith. She absolutely loved being a mom, spending time with her boys, and taking many pictures of them. She also enjoyed scrapbooking, being involved in the PTO and Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce. She was so happy to partake in both Chicago & Michigan cancer walks.

Preceded in death by her paternal grandfather and maternal grandparents, her aunt Joan and uncle John Herlitz.

Visitation was on Saturday, 3-8 PM at David C. Brown Viewing & Funeral Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, with a funeral service on Sunday, April 7, 2013 at noon with an hour prior visitation. Mr. Dennis Koehn officiated. Cremation rites were accorded.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Melanoma Research Foundation, P.O. Box 759329, Baltimore, MD 21275-9329 or to the college fund that will be set up for the children & would be greatly appreciated by the family.

Please sign Dawn's on line guestbook and share a memory for her family to treasure at [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com).



Annamary Beck

## ANNAMARY BECK

(Died April 5, 2013)

Annamary Beck, age 86, of Van Buren Township, Michigan passed away Friday April 5, 2013 at St. Joseph Hospital. She was raised and went to school in Ohio, and was the daughter of the late Hollis & Annabell (Cook) Sterrett.

Annamary is survived by her husband Jim Beck; four children Todd (Mary Anna) Beck of Moundsville, West Virginia, Michael (Janine) Beck of Atwater, Ohio, Jeffrey (Judy) Beck of Brighton, Michigan, and Scott (Toni) Beck of Los Angeles, California; eight grandchildren Jeffrey (Heather) Beck, Amy Beck, Jared (Stephanie) Beck, April (Jeff) Markov, Richard (Sara) Beck, Simon Beck, Kristy Beck, and Hollis Beck; eight great-grandchildren; and a sister Audrey Pittenger of Lisbon, Ohio. She was preceded in death by a sister, Helen Evans. Annamary was one of the founding members of the Presbyterian Church located in Belleville, Michigan. She was a first grade teacher for Van Buren Public schools for 22 years. Annamary enjoyed driving the boys to Ohio to visit the family, and taking the boys to and from concerts and sporting events that they participated in.

Visitation will be Friday, April 12, 2013 from 2-5 P. M. at David C. Brown Temporary Viewing Chapel, 500 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111. Funeral service will be held Saturday, April 13, 2013 at 1:00 P.M. at the Belleville

Presbyterian Church 11900 Belleville Rd., Belleville, MI 48111. Interment will follow at Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock, Michigan.

## EUGENE THOMAS NOWICKI

(February 23, 1936 - April 6, 2013)

Age 77 of Augusta Township. Survived by wife Shirley; three children Mark, Karen and Thomas; 6 grandchildren; and brother Ronald. Cremation rites accorded. David C. Brown Temporary Viewing Chapel, Belleville.

## Upcoming Meetings

• Thursday, April 11 -- Keystone Academy School Board, 6 p.m. Also, City of Belleville Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

• Monday, April 15 -- Van Buren Township work-study, 4 p.m. Also, Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education work-study session, 7 p.m., Administration Bldg. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• Tuesday, April 16 -- Van Buren Township board meeting, 7:30 p.m.

• Wednesday, April 17 -- South Huron Valley Utility Authority, 10 a.m., Brownstown Township Hall. Also, Van Buren Township Staff Review, 1-4 p.m. Also, Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m. Also, VBT Environmental Commission, 7 p.m.

• Monday, April 22 -- Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., BHS Commons

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## More Letters

### Old Huron River Bridge actually built in 1924

To the Editor:

Last week our beloved editor ran an aerial photo I sent her moons ago of the Edison Dam and French Landing Industrial area.

There are some corrections and updates that need to be made, specifically in regard to dates.

First, the date, 1920, she quoted for the Old Huron River Bridge was built was in the ball park, but most references have it as 1924. This is at the time Edison was consolidating buying the properties and rights to flood the river bed.

As I found when doing the research for the Old Sawmill Barn, the public records of the City of Belleville and also the Belleville Enterprise for the period of the late teens and early/mid '20s are missing. I have understood there was some hanky-pank went on between the Belleville Bank and Edison during that time. There is a photo of the earlier Iron French Landing Bridge in Park Gregory's book, "See Again", which the bridge in the photo replaced.

Second, the date you gave of 1930 was incorrect. 1946 is the date determined by careful analysis of all the information available, mostly by looking at the vehicles in the photo, as well as other internal evidence.

Third: Known history of the photo. The photo was given to me by Carl Speaks a few years ago, who got it from his mother, who got it from the neighbor, who was later determined to be the photographer. Upon checking the original photo with a magnifying glass, I could see dead fish in the water, and knowing a bit about photography and available grades of cameras, I knew I was looking at a photo most likely taken with a military grade recon camera, WWII era.

Another powwow with Carl confirmed my theory that the neighbor was a WWII vet who served in the US Army AF as a recon photog. He doubtless brought his camera home with him, couldn't wait to get back up in a plane, and shot recon photos of the nearest tactical target this side of Willow

Run. As such, I would seek to honor that vet by giving him proper credit for the photo.

Fourth, the story does not end here. I scanned the photo and examined it in digital detail, sending it out for comments in email attachments. It was in fact used for the August 2009 Historical Calendar to coincide with the Dam Tour that year, with which I was also involved. This led to an argument with the Late Cathy Horste, who told me they didn't give me credit for the photo because somebody else came up with another copy about the same time. Of course, this other copy was a printoff off of one of the emails containing the photo which had been passed around. They refused to show me the other alleged photograph, and I let it lay.

I received acknowledgement for my artwork on the Dam Tour T shirt, which may be reprinted soon. Anyway those who knew her well or not knew Cathy was quite easy to get into an argument with, even when she was wrong. (And it wasn't the first or last one -- argument -- for me.)

Albeit, after you printed that and acknowledged me the courtesy, I'd like to take the opportunity to give photo credit where it is deserved, and that is to the USAAF vet who shot it, and that man is the late Vincent Goodnuff of Alva Dr, VBT.

Fifth, and for the future references, I have a plan for rebuilding both bridges at the French Landing area. The Bridge in the photo is still currently in use as a river crossing for City of Detroit water line and DTE natural gas supply. MESSAGE TO THE POWERS THAT BE: GET THE UTILITY COMPANIES TO HELP FOOT THE BILL FOR REPLACING THIS BRIDGE AT A CRITICAL CHOKEPOINT IN VBT/ROMULUS AREAS. They will certainly be wanting to use the new bridge, and were certainly the longest users of the existing closed and deteriorating bridge, and they should be grateful for the usage. The taxpayers would be grateful, too, I think ....

Jimmi Chapman  
Ace Sawmill & Tree Service  
Van Buren Township

"The liberties of a people never were, nor ever will be, secure, when the transactions of their rulers may be concealed from them." — Patrick Henry

### 17<sup>th</sup>-annual Quilt Show was record-breaker

To the Editor:

The 17<sup>th</sup>-annual Quilt Show had record-breaking attendance and quilts on display this year.

The Belleville Area Museum and Western Wayne County Quilting Guild are happy to announce our Viewers' Choice Winners for 2013.

Congratulations to Phyliss Guerra who had two of her quilts, "Starburst" and "Robert's Floral Garden", make the top three! "Starburst" was the overall winner this year followed closely by "Floral Garden" and the 2012 WWCQG Raffle Quilt, entitled "Crazy Quilting."

The winners were given ribbons for their peer-achievement. Thanks to all who participated in this annual exhibit.

The new exhibit: "100 years of Boy and Girl Scouts" will open May 1<sup>st</sup>!

The museum is located at 405 Main Street in downtown Belleville and is now open during our spring/summer hours: Tuesdays: 3-7 p.m. and Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: noon to 4 p.m. Closed Saturday and Sunday. Museum admission is \$2.

Like us on Facebook! We may be found at Belleville Area Museum and Archives.

Katie Dallos, Director  
Belleville Area Museum

### Very impressed with live auction

To the Editor:

I went to the first live auction of JNG Services on Saturday night, March 30, on Sumpter Road. They were very professional people. All the items for sale were very clean and neatly presented. I hope that more people will attend the next one that they have. The more the merrier.  
Laurie Johnson


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# Belleville Planners decide 50% can be cap for offices in city

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

The Belleville Planning Commission decided that 50% could be the cap for the number of offices on a block in the city, but those already there wouldn't have to move.

At the March 14 meeting of the commission, four Main Street businessmen were present to plead for changes that would allow them to sell their businesses without having to renovate the buildings to make them into retail shops.

Former Mayor Glenn Silvenis, a Real Estate Broker, said to have to make something into retail that isn't suitable, you might as well tear it down.

He said people affected should be notified if there are going to be major changes in zoning.

Planning Commission Chairman Steve Jones said there have been notices and the ordinance is already in place that calls for everything on the ground floor to be retail.

"When that was put into place, 5 or 6 years ago, a lot of things were in the hopper," Jones said, referring to the proposed Kroger store downtown. "That's the way they wanted to go, but the economy didn't cooperate."

Jones said they don't want to go backward and stagnate and 50% is not such a large number. It might be an issue in a few exceptions, he said. He said new development will go with what the city

requires: at least two stories.

Currently it is estimated that the city is 34% office space, including doctors' and dentists' offices. There is a concern about how all the vacant space figures into the 50% office space limit.

Gary Snarski of Century 21, Glenn Silvenis of Remax real estate, Bob Stoner owner of an office building, and Ron Vesche of Main Street Flowers gave comments on how the present ordinance affects their businesses.

"If Dr. Robb had a doctor who wants to buy that building, he couldn't and that's a change," Snarski said.

The deal with the doctor was with Silvenis who said he was afraid to send the new doctor to city hall for fear of what he would be told.

Silvenis said he already has been told the new doctor wouldn't be allowed in the former doctor's office because it had been vacant more than 90 days and a retail business now is required. He said the proposed buyer, who would be a good addition to the community, has money, and he could walk away.

After much discussion, the commission said they would look at the 90-day vacancy part of the ordinance. Silvenis was invited to bring his doctor to city hall because the city was looking at changing the ordinance.

Vesche said Belleville's downtown cannot support retail because they have to compete with big box stores and the internet -- and every year they have more competition.

He said some downtowns turn out to be all restaurants or all offices where office workers support the community's businesses.

Vesche talked about the bicycle shop closing, the jewelry store, and all the places next to Charhouse that have closed. They can't compete, he said.

Vesche, who moved his residence from Van Buren Township to Plymouth, talked about the places in Plymouth that are closing.

Vesche said the people in the meat market said they were losing their house because they can't sell enough meat.

Commissioner Mike Renaud said when the planning commission talks about retail, it includes restaurants.

Jill Bahm of ClearZoning (formerly called Birchler Arroyo) who wrote the original ordinance and who is working on the updated version said she sits on the board of Main Street Oakland County, a group helping Main Streets to be vital and revitalized. She said small retailers are really struggling, but those in Rochester, Ferndale and Royal Oak are flourishing.

She said retailers do better who have classes and demonstrations because people like individual attention. She said the mix of a community is important. Where there is a meat market, it should be near a wine shop or bakery. Otherwise, people go to Meijer's and get it all in one place. Small retailers can be successful, she said.

Snarski asked if any other communities limit only retail on the main floor and Bahm said, "Some."

"Keeping the 90-day rule would kill this community," Snarski said. "That's why I'm asking for it to be changed."

Bahm said she would have the updated ordinance ready for the next meeting with an open house in April and a scheduled public hearing after that.

Bahm said ClearZoning would be also brought to the next meeting. Bahm will condense the work of the sign committee to bring back to the commission, as well.

Jones said the sign committee proposes increasing the window signs to 35% of the store's window, up from 25%. A previous sign committee had wanted to allow 75% of the window to have signs.

There also was a short discussion on LED signs, which are not permitted except for the city sign and the high school sign. Vesche wanted two small signs for his florist shop to change once a day or once an hour. They would not be flashing signs, he said. Vesche said he has to compete with stores north of the bridge who have such signs and can post sales easily.

Vesche said he talked to the people who are going to open the gas station at Five Points and they said they aren't allowed to have an LED sign for their gas prices.

It was reported that Citgo has an LED sign that is turned on after hours for city officials and on weekends.

"We just need all the help we can get," Vesche said. He was told the subject would be discussed at next month's meeting, at 7:30 p.m., April 11.

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Huron Charter Township, Wayne County

Open House: April 10<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> (12:30-1:30pm)

Parcel ID: 75-009-99-0014-000 • SEV: \$74,100 (2012) • Taxable Value: \$74,100

(2012) • Taxes: \$951.33 (winter '12); \$1654.91 (summer '12)

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Open House: April 10<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> (2-3pm)

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Taxes: \$657.88 (winter '12); \$414.84 (summer '12) • Zoning: Agricultural (Ag-2)

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## Court Watching:

### Parents charged with manslaughter don't show up for court

By Diane Madigan

Independent Court Reporter

Angelina Perry, 39, and Ray Hunt, 34, failed to show up for their court date last Thursday at Third Circuit Court in the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice.

They were due for a Final Pre-trial Conference on a charge of Involuntary Manslaughter in connection with the Aug. 20 drowning death of their 11-month-old son, Oliver Perry in a backyard swimming pool in Sumpter Township.

After several minutes of discussion between Hunt's attorney Brian Gagniuk, Perry's attorney Douglas Nortley and prosecutor Carin Goldfarb, the presiding judge Dana M. Hathaway was summoned to the court room to hear the explanations of why neither defendant was present.

Gagniuk began, stating that his client Ray Hunt had phoned him earlier to say he was in the hospital and would not be able to be in court. He added that Hunt had been very distraught recently and the whole situation has been very hard on him.

Judge Hathaway asked Prosecutor Goldfarb for her opinion. Goldfarb stated that she tended to believe Hunt was in the hospital but he would need to provide evidence of that to the court at his next appearance.

Nortley then told the court he had no contact with Perry, and did not know why she was not in court as scheduled.

Goldfarb stated that she would yield to the discretion of the court regarding what would be done with respect to Perry's failure to appear.

Judge Hathaway said she would issue a capias warrant for Perry.

On March 25 the prosecutor filed a notice of intent to use other act evidence in this case. As reported by the *Independent*, both plead guilty to shoplifting charges at the Van Buren Township Meijer store when Oliver was with them and they put items into his stroller to take from the store.

A follow-up Final Conference date was set for Friday, April 12, at which both defendants will be required to be present.

A trial date of June 20 was also set by the court. Both attorneys and Prosecutor Goldfarb indicated that there is a plea offer on the table that could resolve the case without going to trial, but no details were given.

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### 'Victim' drops complaint about robbery at VBT gas station

A "victim" who came to the Van Buren Township Police station to report a robbery at Ecorse Mobil gas station, decided to drop the whole thing after questioning.

VBT Police Lt. Dennis Brooks said the incident was reported at 9:13 a.m., Wednesday, March 27.

"Upon speaking with the 'victim' and receiving multiple stories of how this robbery happened, it was determined that the 'victim' was not telling the entire story and that this may have been a drug rip off," Lt. Brooks said. The case was closed after further questioning. The man declined to provide further information and told police that he would just "chalk it up as a loss," Lt. Brooks said.

In another call, at 1:27 p.m., Friday, March 29, a holdup alarm went off at 39965 S. I-94 Service Drive. Lt. Brooks said officers responded and found the rear doorwall open. Officers made contact with the homeowner who advised them that everything was OK, Lt. Brooks said.

## Pet of the Week

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**Patchie** is a gentle, loving kitty girl who has been waiting a long time for her fur-ever family to find her. She arrived as a kitten in summer of 2009 and is still hanging out with us in the shelter cat haven. **Patchie** has such a great friendly, low-key and lovable personality it's a true mystery why she's still here with us. Her velvety soft grey coat is lightly kissed with dots of color in a delightful patchwork pattern and offers a great way to reduce stress by petting it. Even though she's not flashy or kitten cute we urge you to not overlook this charming, pleasant girl since she's likely all you'll need to feel loved and appreciated each and every day. She's spayed, vaccinated, tested neg. for FeLuk/FIV and micro-chipped. **734-461-9458**

### VBT grass fire starts on Martz Road following tree clearing work

By Rosemary K. Oztman

Independent Editor

In the late afternoon on Thursday, April 4, Van Buren Township Fire Fighters were dispatched to a fire in the 49700 block of Martz Road, west of Hoeft.

VBT Fire Chief Dan Besson said someone had been cutting down trees and lighting them on fire which started tall grass on fire in the woodlines.

He said there was a vacant house on the property, covered with Tyvek, with a building permit that expired a year ago. There also were several trailers in the backyard and someone had been clearing trees.

A neighbor saw smoke and called 911. Chief Besson said he called for mutual aid from surrounding communities.

Chief Besson said Belleville brought their Humvee, Augusta Township brought its

grass rig and Gator, and Sumpter Township brought two people and its grass truck.

He said fire fighters went in to fight the fire from three directions: one from the sod far and through backyards from Hoeft and Martz. The fire was extinguished in a couple of hours.

Chief Besson said township building officials are looking into the situation.

### Gloria R. Young earns BBA degree from Northwood U.

MIDLAND, MI – Gloria R. Young of Belleville recently received a four-year bachelor of business administration (BBA) degree from Northwood University.

### Jasmine Wehr named to Dean's List at U of Findlay

Jasmine Wehr of Belleville has been named to the University of Findlay (Findlay, Ohio) Dean's List for the fall semester. Jasmine is majoring in equestrian studies/animal science.

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# Arbitration

(continued from page 3)

10, perjury.

But the Arbitrator said it appears Champagne was terminated for a series of events, which explain and culminate in the alleged perjury charge. He said the totality of the transaction, including aggravating and mitigating circumstances, was implicated. All of it was considered.

In his summary, Dobry said there is no evidence that Champagne knowingly and intentionally checked the box that said the chemical rights were read to the suspect.

Filling out the warrant form involved pulling up a prior warrant on Champagne's file and modifying it for the current case. There is no such thing as a blank form, so it's very possible old information may remain on a new warrant if the officer mistakenly does not delete it.

Director McClanahan stated that Lt. Buckberry had misunderstood his orders for the investigation. Allegedly, the lieutenant was to state in his investigation that the charges would be "submitted for appropriate discipline". The lieutenant misunderstood and instead recommended a suspension, not termination, at the end of his original report. The lieutenant was allowed to change his report without further action by the Department stating how the lieutenant failed to follow the Director's orders.

"Misunderstandings occur," Dobry wrote. "People, officers and even command officers, misunderstand, mishear and misinterpret discussions. A mistake is a mistake and what the lieutenant and Officer Champagne misunderstood resulted in mistakes. Mistakes should not end the career of anyone."

Dobry also noted that the document construction process was flawed and, "In part, this is a systemic failure." Officers should not be encouraged to "get" a filled-in document, but instead should be required to opt in as to each allegation that may apply.

"The document construction process was flawed," he wrote. "This had a foreseeable result from the method of document assemble: 'getting' a document from another matter and cannibalizing it. This method of construction places a premium on reading every line. And proof reading every line, too. The system was not fool proof."

Dobry said Champagne was being punished for his coming forward and confessing his mistake. In that sense, the employer's decision terminating him for admitting the mistake is essentially perverse, and in the long term encourages officers to hand tough with recognized mistakes.

"The violation of policy and the negligent failure to hear the instructions warrant a short suspension. They do not justify a termination from employment," Dobry said.

Director McClanahan resigned from his position at the VBT Public Safety Department on Jan. 23, about two weeks

after Dobry submitted his findings. Supervisor Linda Combs said this arbitration case had nothing to do with McClanahan's resignation.

**Editor's Note:** The 33 pages of arbitration findings were released to the *Independent* following a Freedom of Information Act request that was first denied by Clerk Leon Wright and then granted in part after an appeal to Supervisor Linda Combs. The document, dated Jan. 8, 2013, is redacted, with large portions of pages and sometimes whole pages blacked out, allegedly to conceal operating procedures of the police department.

## Museum Lecture Series presents 'Henry Ford: His Life and Times'

The Belleville Area Museum will host automotive history writer Russell Dore of Motor Cities Heritage Area on Thursday, April 18 as he presents "Henry Ford: His Life and Times."

This one-hour program is part of the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary celebration of the automobile legend. It will include information about Ford's life, inventions, family and the controversial aspects of his personality, as well as some of the ways he changed the world.

Museum doors open at 6 p.m., pizza and soft drinks will arrive at 6:30 p.m., and the presentation begins at 7 p.m.

This event is sponsored by the Belleville Area Historical Society.

## It's time to get started planning your garden plot at Van Buren Park

Interested in cutting back on your grocery bills this summer? Rent a plot in this year's Community Garden located in Van Buren Park. The garden is open to residents of Van Buren Township and all surrounding communities.

You are able to tend your own plot all summer long and have the ability to grow vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers. This is perfect for those who live in apartment complexes or who don't have a yard of their own.

Plots are open from May 15 to Oct. 15. Cost is \$25 for the season and includes an annual park pass.

For more information call the Van Buren Township Parks and Recreation Department, 699-8921, or visit the website at [www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org).

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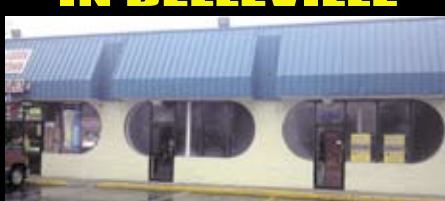
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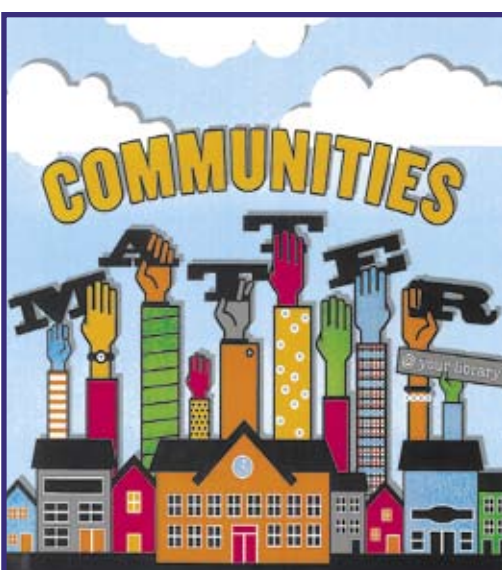
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# VBT Board

(continued from page 1)

as a program manager before becoming director of the Mount Clemens DDA.

The VBT agreement with Mullen approved on April 2 was retroactive to Feb. 11, but the new \$70,000 salary (\$5,833.33 per month) was put in place as of April 3.

The interim employment is expected to last about six months while the township seeks a new director and gets a director in place, Combs said at the April 1 work-study session of the board. No benefits are offered with the agreement.

A planning/building department budget was given to board members to explain how Mullen, the next director and a new deputy director (\$39,000 budgeted) would be paid. It was discussed at the April 1 work-study session.

Carroll had \$77,500 in the budget for his wages and \$140,655 for fringes. \$30,591.97 of the wages and \$35,861.70 of the fringes were expended when he left.

His separation payment is included in the \$30,591.97 paid to Carroll this year. Although Supervisor Combs has refused to honor a Freedom of Information Act request filed by the *Independent* to release the amount of the severance payment made to Carroll, it appears to be in the range of \$22,000.

Proposed expenses call for six months of Mullen at \$5,833.33 per month (about \$35,000) and about 19 weeks for the new director at \$25,478.92 (salary: \$70,000).

It was estimated \$14,800 more was needed

for this, plus \$151,655 for Mullen's \$700 FICA payments and the new director's benefits. The shortfall adds up to \$25,800, which Combs is taking out of Contracted Services. She said McKenna and Wade Trim will no longer be doing permit inspections for building, mechanical and plumbing.

The only budget amendment needed was a re-allocation of \$25,800 from Contracted Services.

Combs said she has advertised for a new director through professional organizations and had 15 submissions already. Help-wanted advertisements also have been posted for the DPW Director, since Tom McDonald was retiring as of April 8.

There was a long discussion on the way Mullen's employment was being handled at the April 1 work-study session.

Trustee Jeff Jahr said he didn't like shifting Contracted Services over, "Just shifting money from one line to another doesn't solve the problem. Who's doing the electrical inspecting?"

Combs said VBT employee Judy Fields was doing all the inspections but electrical. Contractor Robert Lenz was doing electrical inspections.

"We're saving money by doing it in-house," Combs said.

"We were having McKenna and Wade Trim doing inspections and that ended before I came on board," Mullen said. "It was in the budget and now we have that money."

"This board never approved a contract with Wade Trim ... This was controversial,"

Trustee Jahr said referring to inspections and all the questions on inspections at many past meetings.

Combs said under Carroll, Fields, a union inspector, was doing account clerk work and Wade Trim was hired to do inspections and money for that was built into the budget.

"A union inspector as an account clerk which is no longer happening," Combs said.

"I'd like to see it spelled out as a budget amendment, not these loosey-goosey transfers," Jahr said.

Combs said Carroll built in funds for Wade Trim and McKenna to do inspections and, "We're not going to need that money for them."

Jahr said the board supposedly directed Carroll to go out for Requests for Proposals to outsource building department services, but Combs said the RFP did not go out because she stopped it.

"The board has been left out of the loop," Jahr said. "We'll be looking stupid when people start asking questions at meetings."

Clerk Leon Wright said the township lost an electrical inspector and Matt Forster, the building inspector, left. Fields thought this affected her, Wright said.

"We lost two employees and still have the work," Jahr said.

"There was a personal conflict between her [Fields] and him [Carroll] and he didn't give her the work," Combs said.

Jahr said the former director said Fields couldn't do it and suddenly she is doing all the work, except electrical.

John Delaney said from the audience that Fields spent 75% of her time behind her desk and she was supposed to be out inspecting. Delaney said the township used to have rotations of inspectors in the community to be called in for work.

Combs said setting up a rotation is something that takes time.

"I'm not going to let this drop," Jahr said. "The problem may or may not be the previous director ... he's gone ... we were looking into contracting out services. This board has not been kept advised. This is a problem area... Suddenly we're taking money out of one area for another ... The new director will be making less than the previous director. We've never seen any of the budget implications."

"I agree with Trustee Jahr," said Trustee Phil Hart. "We need to be advised. I'm kinda glad you did what you did ... But if we had a piece of white paper telling us what's going on..."

"This board needs to be involved," Jahr said.

"You should have asked," Combs replied.

"You're at the top of the heap, the CEO," Hart said, noting board members don't know what to ask.

Combs said she was new on the job and board members can ask her anything.

"You challenged my integrity," Jahr said to Combs, referring to a past situation, "and I'm not going to let this drop."

Trustee Reggie Miller suggested Combs offer a weekly update to the board of her

(continued on page 13)

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# VBT Board

(continued from page 12)

activities and decisions.

"Certainly the policy changes," Hart added.

Jahr said the board doesn't know what is going on and it is contrary to what the board thought when they allocated the budget money.

"There's no way the board would have known ... the board should be told," Jahr said.

"I also need backup when Judy goes on vacation," Mullen said of another concern.

Trustee Brenda McClanahan said the board needs to know what's going on because if, in six to eight months something goes down, it falls on the entire board.

"We have some physical hard times coming," Jahr predicted.

Mullen said it was a decision by the supervisor to cut out Wade Trim and McKenna from inspecting.

"We weren't advised," Jahr insisted.

Combs said there were a lot of loose

ends and she didn't have time to call every board member.

CeJay Marshall said from the audience, that Terry Carroll stonewalled everyone when he was questioned about inspectors. Marshall said John Delaney brought this forward six months ago.

"I commend you for stopping it," Marshall said to the supervisor. "It was something from the previous administration."

Delaney noted employees left or were pushed out because Wade Trim and McKenna were getting the inspections.

"We will endeavor to make this as fair as we can," Combs said.

In business at the April 2 regular meeting, the board:

- Approved changing voting precinct locations for Precincts 2, 6, and 8. Precinct 2 moves from Fire Station 2 to Wayne County Community College, Precinct 6 moves from Fire Station 1 to the high school; and Precinct 8 moves from Savage back to Haggerty School. Updated voter registration cards will be mailed out to about 7,600 affected voters. It was agreed

that the fire stations do not have enough parking area for big election turnouts;

- Approved hiring Wade Trim as housing rehabilitation services contractor for the township's Community Development Block Grant program. McKenna Associates also bid for the work, with both stating the same rate based upon a percentage of expenditures, all costs paid through the federal CDBG program. Mullen said the township has \$144,000 for housing rehab and there are 12 applications. Treasurer Sharry Budd said the township has CDBG rehab funds from 2009, 2011 and 2012 and the township has to move forward or it will have to refund the money to CDBG. "We have to move forward. I'm not going to send that money back," Budd said;

- Approved changes to the Salaried Employees Benefit Manual: Health / Dental / Optical section. As of May 1, all salaried employees and all elected officials will pay 10% of the cost of their health insurance, just like the unions have agreed to pay. Combs said the unions were getting impatient that this hadn't been approved

yet for salaried/elected personnel. The previous administration had a policy that new salaried employees would pay 20%. Those paying 20% were Jennifer Zaenglein, Karin LaMothe, Terry Carroll (who left) and Dan Besson (who dropped township insurance). They will now pay 10%;

- Approved the \$25,300 proposal from Roofing Technology Associates to act as roof consultant on the upcoming reroofing of the township hall. In 2012 the board approved RTA to prepare specifications, assist with bidding, and provide oversight to replace a small portion of the roof and make various repairs. The bids came in low, so the board approved the re-roofing of most of the roof with RTA overseeing the expanded project, expected to be this summer. The VBT DDA offered to pay 75% of the cost for the entire roof;
- Approved the supervisor's reappointments of Dr. Gerald Graf and Carl Pedersen to the Water and Sewer Commission with terms to expire June 1, 2015. Commission members are paid \$25 per meeting;

• Learned VBT received two Risk Avoidance Grants from its insurance carrier MMRMA. One was for \$8,576 for the water control system upgrade and the other was for \$4,399.50 for a sewer inspection push camera that works without excavation. The grants are for 50% of the cost of the equipment.

• Heard Clerk Wright say he would be giving lessons on elections at Belleville High School on April 9 and his office will be running a real election for the BHS Student Council all day May 14. The Clerk's office will provide real ballots and real voting machines to introduce students to the voting experience;

• Heard presentations from Interim Public Safety Director Greg Laurain and Fire Chief Dan Besson on their departments; and

• Heard Supervisor Combs ask, during the Non-Agenda Items part of the meeting, how they would like to choose an electrical inspector: go out for proposals or get a list of inspectors and rotate. Trustee Miller suggested putting the item on a workshop agenda for discussion. Trustee McClanahan asked that the proposed board policy also be brought back to the work/study for discussion. No members of the audience wished to speak.

## Birthdays

- April 10 – George Roman, Judy Fruit
- April 14 – Dorothy Skszek
- April 16 – Charmel Rice
- April 18 – Ken Bleeker, Anthony S. Kuchta, Sr.
- April 19 – Mary Lee Kuchta
- April 22 – Bonnie Priebe
- April 23 – Ann Martin
- April 30 – Barbara Rogalle Miller, Glenn Silvenis

Do you have a birthday in April? Does anyone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.

## Doug Dalton Auctioneer Presents ESTATE ANTIQUE AUCTION

**Thurs. Night, April 18, 6pm**  
Preview 4:00 pm

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**Ring #2: 6pm MAIN ROOM AUCTION:** Coin-op Machines inc 40s Jennings Slot, 2 40s Coke Machines inc Rare Vendo-44, 57 Seeburg Juke Box & 60s Pin-balls. Amazing group of Antique Furniture including Victorian & Lots of Oak !. Huge Clock Collection inc 12 China Cased, Interesting Art Works including signed paintings and prints. Various Lamps incl Victorian. Fine Jewelry. More Guy items including WW2 Japanese Sword, Nice Selection of Primitives, Childrens Furniture, Antique Advertising inc Showcases and the Unusual.....

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# Minding Your Business

with Bob Mytych



This Saturday's **Child ID Workshop** at the **H & R Block** store on Belleville Road will take place from 12 noon to 2 p.m. inside the retail store. Last week's column listed the time at 2 to 4 p.m. because of incorrect information given to us. Van Buren Township Police will be conducting the event. Call **(734) 697-6066** for info.

\*\*\*

**Doug Dalton Auctioneer** will be holding his monthly **Estate Auction** at the **Romulus Progressive Hall** on Thursday, April 18, beginning at 6 p.m. Previews start at 4 p.m. See their ad in today's paper for the descriptions of some of the items and visit [www.dougdaltonauctionerr.com](http://www.dougdaltonauctionerr.com) for lots of photos and other details.

\*\*\*

The **Chiropractic Center** on Belleville Road across from Meijer's welcomes **Dr. Tom Sell** to its staff of chiropractors. Dr. Sell returns to the Belleville Community after spending the past 5 years in the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti area. Dr. Sell will provide you with a free chiropractic consultation to see if his services will help. Dr. Sell's office hours are Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Monday through Friday by appointment only. Call **(517) 442-5278**.

\*\*\*

The **Belleville Area District Library** invites everyone to its April 20 presentation of **Communities Matter Video Premier**, starring members of the community who will be performing **Casey at the Bat**. The first 100 guests will receive a free gift. Refreshments will be served, too. The show starts at 2 p.m.

\*\*\*

Congratulations to **Marlene Mills** and everyone at **Hott Hair Salon** and **Denny's Barbershop** who are celebrating their 1-year anniversary this month. Get special deals on services such as hair cuts for

everybody by calling **(734) 697-4485**.

\*\*\*

**Michelle Mahaffey** of **Open Arms Lutheran Church** on Belleville Road would like to thank everyone who helped make their recent **Heat Wave Food Drive** a huge success. Special thanks to Van Buren Schools and staff, First United Methodist Church, Open Arms Church, Septembers Days Senior Center, Loranger Chiropractic, Belleville Chamber of Commerce, area Boys and Girl Scouts, Johnston Lithograph, Renee Wisniewski, Barb Ross, Cory Zeetraten, Jonas and all the others who helped.

\*\*\*

A select number of families in the Belleville and surrounding areas will be given the opportunity to receive an **Erie Metal Roof System** installed on their home at a reasonable cost this spring. To see if you might qualify, call **1-877-650-6464**.

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**Sarvis & Sons Cement** of Belleville will match and beat all competitor prices with free estimates on driveways, patios, custom flatwork, and much more. They offer senior and veteran discounts too. Call **(734) 497-5888**.

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*Do you have an item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at 734-699-9020 with your suggestion. There is no charge to be in this column.*



## Ask Angela

By Angela Nettro

I am here to answer questions pertaining to buying or selling real estate. Send your questions to "Ask Angela", c/o **Belleville-Area Independent**, 152 Main Street, Ste. 9, Belleville 48111 or send me an email at [nettroandco@comcast.net](mailto:nettroandco@comcast.net). I'll answer questions in this column.

**Question from Robert in Belleville:** I have a condo that is currently underwater with a 5.85% interest rate. I have been finally offered a loan through Quicken Loans at 3.99% for 30 years. They are asking for over \$5,000 in closing costs with escrow.

I currently owe approximately \$54,000. Closing costs seem high and I am wondering if you know any reputable lender with lower closing costs? Also, if this is the proper action to pursue? I retired two years ago.

**Answer:** The usual rule for refinancing is to do so when the interest rate you are refinancing for is at least 2% less than you currently have. Your refinance consideration is less than 2%.

Also, the \$5,200 in closing costs is approximately 10% of what you currently owe on your mortgage. You also will be starting all over on a 30-year loan which will be putting much less to the principal of the loan for the early years.

My opinion is the money that you would be putting to the new mortgage closing costs you could put towards your current

mortgage equity/principal to lower your interest on the following payments which in return puts more of your payment to the principal. Also, you would have your loan for lesser years than a new mortgage at 30 years.

I also feel the closing costs you were quoted are too high and are JUST closing costs and not applied to the mortgage. Overall, for the difference in interest rates your smaller mortgage, the out-of-pocket expenses and a new 30-year loan, I DO NOT believe it would be beneficial in your scenario.

In closing, it would also be better for you to just try to put a little extra to your payment when you can to help pay off your mortgage sooner. Remember, the interest you are paying on your mortgage is tax deductible.

-- Angela

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Ann Martin, left, of Rohnert Park, CA, reads her *Independent* on Saturday in her room at the Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Santa Rosa, CA. At right is her sister, Rosemary Otzman of Van Buren Township, editor of the *Independent*. Ann, a 1956 graduate of BHS, is being treated for ovarian cancer. Ann's birthday is April 23 and you can send a card to her at 18 Conifer Square, Rohnert Park, CA 94928.

You, too, are invited to submit a photo of you reading the *Independent* in an exotic location. Please include the name and address of the person you wish to get the free subscription when it is printed. Include your phone number if you want us to let you know just before goes in the paper. A person may use this offer to get a total of two free subscriptions -- and no more.

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# Committee to study new Sumpter zoning before board considers it

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

The Sumpter Township Planning Commission worked for a year and a half on the first completely revised zoning ordinance since 1977 before sending it on to the township board for approval.

At the March 26 township board meeting Supervisor Johnny Vawters announced the board wanted time to study the 307-page document and so it was not on that night's agenda for approval, as expected.

A committee was set up to review the document and "fine tune" it. On the committee are township attorney Rob Young, planning consultant Laura Kreps of Carlisle Wortman, Trustee Bill Hamm, and Deputy Clerk Esther Hurst, who also is recording secretary of the Planning Commission.

Another member of the board may be appointed.

Trustee Hamm said the board just got the new zoning ordinance the previous Friday and there wasn't time to study it in detail.

"We're not kicking the can down the road," said Supervisor Johnny Vawters, noting the board has to study the document before acting on it.

Hurst said the Planning Commission has been working on it for one and a half years and the board just had it since the previous Friday. She said the planning commission held a public hearing and approved sending it to the board for action.

Now, it's at the board level, she said.

Cheryl and Ron Norton, owners of the Bake Shoppe at the corner of Savage and Bemis roads, had concerns about their C-3

zoning being taken away.

They said they had been advised by the township to get C-3 zoning and so they paid the fees and had the public hearing and invited all their neighbors to get the proper zoning for their storage yard.

Now, that's been wiped away because there no longer will be a C-3 zoning.

"I'm glad we got here at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour," Cheryl Norton said, adding she thought the zoning changes were to be about dispensaries and other things.

Sharon Claxton, a member of the Planning Commission, said the new zoning has combined C-2 and C-3.

"I'm telling you, there have been no changes," said attorney Young.

"Why didn't someone step up for the residents?" Cheryl Norton asked.

Young said they are putting the ordinance in a more workable form and adding new things, like flag lots and outdoor furnaces. He insisted they were not eliminating any rights.

"Can C-2 have what C-3 has?" Cheryl Norton asked. "We don't want that all over the township."

Supervisor Vawters said they are going to study the document.

"When we changed the zoning, we spent a lot of money," Ron Norton said. "We went through the due process. We were here. A lot of you were not here, but we were. It went to a public hearing."

"We're checking into this ordinance," stated Trustee Alan Bates, who is a new member of the Planning Commission.

Bates said he had three disputed areas: the Nortons' concern, wood burning stoves,

and flag lots.

"I have seven," said Trustee Hamm.

Ron Norton said, "We don't want it jammed down on us."

Supervisor Vawters said those with concerns should bring them to committee members.

In other business at the March 26 meeting, the board:

- Held a moment of silence in memory of David Green who died March 24. Mr. Green, who did a lot of volunteer work for Sumpter over the years, was the husband of 34<sup>th</sup> District Court Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green;

- Approved Burnham & Flower for the 2013-14 township insurance coverage at a cost of \$120,650;

- Approved hiring Karen Woodington as temporary part-time clerk starting April 22 to work out of the Supervisor's office. Clerk Clarence Hoffman asked if the laid-off dispatchers have call-back rights and Vawters replied this was a part-time, temporary position and, "She might never work. We have things going on and we might need her";

- Approved paying warrants totaling \$86,533.26;

- Heard Trustee Don Swinson report that plans for Sumpter Fest on Memorial Day week end are moving forward. He said in November some representatives went to a convention and Sumpter submitted last year's Sumpter Fest T-shirt and came in third place of all the shirts submitted. Also, the March 23 Easter Egg Hunt brought from 50 to 75 children;

- Heard Trustee Peggy Morgan give a report on the Wayne County Parks grant spending for 2011-12 and said she will pass it on to the resident who asked about it at a recent meeting. Bates asked if the \$1,000 worth of posts and signs stored in the Graham Park building could be installed with some of the money left from the grant;

- Heard Trustee Swinson announce that quite a few children signed up at the Egg Hunt for Sumpter's new T-Ball league for boys and girls aged 4, 5, and 6. They are still taking registrations and will be at Graham Park at 6-7 p.m. on April 16 and 12-1 p.m. on April 20. Volunteers are still needed;

- Heard Mary Ban say that people in the community are "still dismayed... still appalled" that the school district is wasting \$200,000 to tear down Elwell School

when Sumpter Township could have used the building. She said it is a loss to every single taxpayer in the township and the school district. "We're like dirt under their feet," she said referring to school officials. She also said it looks like a full traffic signal will be put up at the corner of Martz and Rawsonville roads, thanks to the work of Washtenaw County officials. She said when she went to Van Buren Township asking about the deadly intersection, VBT didn't even know where it was and that there was a problem; and

- Heard Trustee Morgan report that she was told there was a large crowd at Haggerty School for the school district's sale of equipment from Elwell and other schools. Ban said, "It's a shame they didn't do that at the high school." She said people in the community "still can't believe it happened," referring to the tearing down of the high school with equipment still in it.

## VBT Board approves one-year extension to AFSCME contract

By Diane Madigan  
Independent Special Writer

During an 11-minute special meeting on March 27, the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously to extend the recently approved AFSCME contract by one year.

The meeting first was scheduled as a closed-door session, but the board decided not to go into closed session and took care of its business in public.

The only person in the audience was the Independent reporter.

The board had a bare quorum of Supervisor Linda Combs, Treasurer Sharry Budd, Clerk Wright and Trustee Jeff Jahr.

Absent and excused were Trustees Phil Hart, Reggie Miller, and Brenda McClanahan.

A two-year contract for the 26 members of Local 236 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) was approved by the VBT board on Feb. 5.

The new contract ran from Jan. 1, 2013 to Dec. 31, 2014. It had no wage increases, but there is a \$750 signing bonus for 2012, a \$750 bonus for 2013 and a \$500 bonus payable in 2014.

After action at the March 27 township board meeting, the contract now runs one year longer, through Dec. 31, 2015.

Clerk Leon Wright said the board received a request from AFSCME to extend the current contract date.

"This date was the original date that the township had asked for," Clerk Wright said, adding this gives the township an additional year without wage increases and, "It actually benefits us to extend this contract."

AFSCME wage talks will open Jan. 1, 2015 and contract negotiations will start July 1, 2015.

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**SPACE #A-15,** Michelle Martin – 4 folding chairs, 4 kitchen chairs, microwave, pictures, kitchen table, Weber grill, box of CDs, misc items

**SPACE #A-14,** Sandra Salter – Wood bed frame, full mattress, 12 boxes, 1 dresser, books, misc items  
**SPACE #A-26,** James McCullough – Ladder, tool box, paint, painting supplies, gas can, metal storage trunk, misc items

**SPACE #D-13,** Cheryl Kennedy – Twin bed frames, kitchen cabinet, upholstered chair, refrigerator, pub table, 3 chairs, coffee table, grill, 5 totes, papasan chair, misc items

**SPACE #G-16,** Miguel Bruce (Armorbearers Investigations) – Full mattress pad, 10 pictures, 1 radio, TV stand, stereo and speakers, shop vac., beauty shop chair, asst. toys, hedge trimmer, misc items  
**SPACE #H-36,** Linda Neal – 20+ boxes, dresser, ironing board, mirrors, pictures, radio, TV, vac. cleaner, asst. toys, furniture, Totes, misc items

publish: April 11, 2013

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*Mark Twain*

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD MEETING MINUTES APRIL 2, 2013

Supervisor Combs called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Supervisor Combs, Clerk Wright, Treasurer Budd, Trustee Jahr, Trustee McClanahan and Trustee Miller. Absent: Trustee Hart (excused). Others in attendance: DPW Director MacDonald, Captain Laurain, Chief Besson, Interim Planning and Economic Development Director Mullen, Executive Assistant LaMothe, Secretary Cline and an audience of fifteen (15). **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Budd moved, Wright seconded to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of New Business Item #5 "Consider a proposal from RTA (Roofing Technology Associates) dated March 25, 2013 to provide additional Roof Consulting Services to the Van Buren Township Hall Roof Replacement Project and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the documents." Carried.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** Jahr moved, McClanahan seconded to approve the Consent Agenda [Work Study Session Minutes March 18, 2013; Closed Session Minutes March 18, 2013; Regular Board Meeting Minutes March 19, 2013; Special Board Meeting Minutes March 25, 2013; Closed Session Minutes March 25, 2013; Reappointments of Dr. Gerald Graf and Carl Pedersen to the Water and Sewer Commission with terms to expire June 1, 2015; Special Board Meeting Minutes March 27, 2013; Voucher List of April 2, 2013.] as presented. Carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Supervisor Combs read a letter of appreciation to Officer Barry regarding a recent traffic stop and his professionalism.

Supervisor Combs read a letter of thanks from Belleville Area District Library to the Township regarding the Literacy Program and use of Township Hall.

Director MacDonald announced the Van Buren Township Water and Sewer Department has been awarded two Rap Grants from Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority.

Chief Besson read an email regarding EMS Fire Utility vehicle being used to respond to medical calls in place of the Fire Engine, as a budget savings to the Township.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Wright moved, Jahr seconded to adopt Resolution 2013-06 precinct polling changes for Precincts 2, 6 and 8. Carried.

Jahr moved, Miller seconded to approve the agreement with Arthur F. Mullen as Interim Director for Interim Planning and Economic Development Director, noting corrections made during Work Study to the agreement and to authorize Supervisor and Clerk to execute the agreement. Carried.

Budd moved, McClanahan seconded to approve the proposal of Wade Trim Associates to provide administrative services for the Van Buren Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Housing Rehabilitation program and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to sign the agreement. Carried.

Wright moved, Budd seconded to approve the

changes to the Salaried Employees Benefit Manual regarding Health/Dental/Optical Section. Carried.

Wright moved, McClanahan seconded to approve proposal from RTA (Roofing Technology Associates) dated March 25, 2013 to provide additional Roof Consulting Services to the Van Buren Township Hall Roof Replacement Project in an amount not to exceed \$25,300 and to authorize the Supervisor and Clerk to execute the documents. Carried.

**REPORTS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Clerk Wright announced Election Law Changes beginning March 28, 2013. PA 523 of 2012 takes effect March 28, 2013 and includes several election law changes. Of particular importance is the new requirement for voters to present identification or sign the Affidavit of Voter Not in Possession of Picture Identification form when registering to vote or obtaining an absentee ballot in person.

Captain Laurain announced the Fire Department is offering CPR classes to Van Buren Township residents. The cost is \$25 and the class will be held on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Fire Station Two located at 7981 Belleville Road. To register for the class contact Lieutenant Shores at 734-699-8900 extension 9431 before April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Captain Laurain and Chief Besson presented a Van Buren Public Safety update as follows: Use of Fire Utility vehicle in place of Fire Engine to respond to medical emergencies as a budget cost saving; Hydrant prep by Police Officers to assist Fire Department; Directing Traffic assistance by Fire Department by placing signs to assist Police during accidents; Immediate Response mandating all cross-trained Officers to carry their Fire equipment in vehicle to respond to fire calls. These Police Officers are paid regular rate (not blended rate) to enhance Public Safety services in the Township.

Chief Besson announced NOAA's National Weather Service has an experimental tornado warning system to a help warn citizens of the different strengths of tornados.

Treasurer Budd announced the Drive-In Dog Clinic will be held on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Water and Sewer building located behind township hall. Residents may also pick up Park Passes and purchase a rain barrel. Information regarding this event and to pre-order your rain barrel is posted on the Township's website [www.vanburen-mi.org](http://www.vanburen-mi.org).

Trustee McClanahan stated there are alarm systems using a parent's voice to wake a child up instead of the typical alarm sound and Chief Besson confirmed this information.

**AUDIENCE (Non-Agenda Items):** Comments were made from 8:39 p.m. to 8:44 p.m. by the Board regarding the following topics: Electrical Inspector; Board Rules of Conduct; Video Policy; bringing these items to Work Study for the Board of Trustees to review.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Wright moved, McClanahan seconded to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Leon Wright, Township Clerk

Linda H. Combs, Township Supervisor

Publish: April 11, 2013

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 Mark Twain

## HELP WANTED

## Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

*The following are selected runs for VBT Police.*

**Sunday, March 31:**  
0536 – larceny from auto, 10667 Oak Lane  
**Monday, April 1:**  
0027 – disturbance, 51250 Sylvia Dr.  
0120 – assault & battery, 16 Oak Blvd.  
0509 – personal injury accident, Michigan/Dellor  
0534 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 10819 Oak Lane  
0901 – intimidation threat, 48051 S. I-94 Service  
1039 – malicious destruction of property, 104 Richard Run  
1523 – fight, 2193 Rawsonville Rd.  
1609 – fraud, 44820 Bemis Rd.  
1617 – juvenile complaint, 6474 Stoneybrook Ct.  
1657 – property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr./Oak Lane  
1715 – larceny, 45501 N. I-94 Service Dr., Red Roof Inn  
2112 – ATV/ORV complaint, Jackson/McBride  
2251 – breaking & entering, Van Buren/McBride  
2258 – assault & battery, 48671 S. I-94 Service Dr.  
2333 – intimidation threat, 49110 Denton  
**Tuesday, April 2:**  
0831 – malicious destruction of property, 10832 Jackson St.  
1214 – private property accident, Meijer  
1229 – larceny, 42439 Pond Ridge Dr.  
1339 – hospice, 42686 Pond Ridge Dr.  
1754 – property damage accident, 49241 S. I-94 Service Dr.  
1859 – fraud, 45130 Venetian Ave.  
1923 – ATV/ORV complaint, 9985 Jackson Ln.  
2343 – malicious destruction of property, 10832 Jackson St.  
**Wednesday, April 3:**  
0544 – suicide or attempt, 48460 Denton Rd.  
1234 – narcotics crime, Belleville Burger King  
1238 – private property accident, 10880 Belleville  
1311 – unattended death, 10 Brandi  
1512 – disturbance, 6522 Parkside Dr.  
1800 – juvenile complaint, Hamilton/Jackson  
2012 – narcotics crime, 46425 Tyler Rd.  
2026 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 39595 Huron River Dr.  
**Thursday, April 4:**  
0215 – disturbance, 51195 Sylvia Dr.  
0720 – larceny from auto, 41472 E. Archwood Dr.  
0755 – larceny from auto, 41472 E. Archwood Dr.  
0755 – larceny from auto, 41472 E. Archwood Dr.  
0808 – larceny from auto, 11123 Oak Lane  
0849 – larceny, 11123 Oak Lane  
0854 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 10880 Lighthouse Dr.  
1043 – private property accident, 15695 Haggerty  
1137 – larceny, 112 Maple Dr.  
1501 – fraud, Meijer  
1545 – dumping complaint, Denton/Van Allen  
1647 – property damage accident, Van Born / Haggerty  
1855 – property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.  
2050 – narcotics crime, 45501 N. I-94 Service Dr.  
2112 – larceny, 46076 Lake Villa Dr.  
2117 – property damage accident, Meijer  
2144 – assault & battery, 78 Maple Dr.  
2157 – retail fraud, Meijer  
2242 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr./Denton Rd.  
**Friday, April 5:**  
0440 – noise complaint, 46194 N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1011 – breaking & entering, 10914 Buchanan St.  
1256 – personal injury accident, Michigan Ave. / Rawsonville Rd.  
1538 – trespassing, McBride/Haggerty  
1725 – harassment call, 51010 Old Michigan Rd.  
1729 – malicious destruction of property, 50667 Huron River Dr.  
1833 – harassment call, 41567 S. Bellridge Dr.  
1908 – operating while intoxicated, WB I-94 / I-275  
2013 – assault & battery, 45150 Jeannette Ave.  
2039 – shots fired, 13215 Lakeview Dr.  
2231 – assault & battery, 11583 Meadows Circle  
2301 – noise complaint, 41555 s. Bellridge Dr.

2329 – fraud, 6065 Rawsonville  
**Saturday, April 6:**  
0024 – property damage accident, Belleville/N. I-94 Service Dr.  
0235 – assault & battery, 7493 Kirkridge Park Dr.  
0340 – property damage accident, Van Born/I-275  
0807 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 46194 N. I-94 Service Dr.  
1353 – trespassing, Haggerty Rd./E. Huron River Drive  
1443 – unauthorized driving away of auto, 51001 W. Huron River Dr.  
1455 – malicious destruction of property, 50667 W. Huron River Dr.  
1527 – ATV/ORV complaint, Reene Dr./Elwell Rd  
1548 – fraud, Walmart  
1627 – shots fired, 70 N. Ponderosa Trl.  
1727 – personal injury accident, Rawsonville Rd. / W. Huron River Dr.  
1738 – larceny, 48011 I-94 Service Dr.  
2103 – harassment call, 46425 Tyler Rd.  
2248 – noise complaint, 11815 Meadows Lane  
2300 – assault & battery, 5964 Vernon St.  
Also on this week’s log are 363 traffic stops with 95 of those on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

## Belleville Police Dispatch Log

**Sunday, March 31:**  
0352 – suspicious vehicle, BHS  
**Monday, April 1:**  
0007 – civil matter, 226 S. Liberty St.  
0430 – suspicious situation, 400 N. Liberty St.  
1343 – property damage accident, Denton/Main  
1430 – civil matter, 226 N. Liberty  
1432 – miscellaneous complaint, 6 Main St.  
1549 – traffic complaint, N. Liberty/Second  
1816 – assist fire dept., 386 Main St.  
2313 – warrant arrest, 6 Main St.  
**Tuesday, April 2:**  
0202 – suspicious person, N. Liberty/Third  
0821 – malicious destruction of property, 847 Sumpter Rd.  
2314 – disturbance, 138 Menlo Park Dr.  
**Wednesday, April 3:**  
0932 – miscellaneous complaint, 85 S. Liberty St.  
0947 – miscellaneous complaint, 321 Victorian Ln.  
1012 – miscellaneous complaint, 583 E. Thornhill Court  
1245 – assist fire dept., 229 Belle Villa Blvd.  
1303 – disturbance, 22 Carmell St.  
1502 – follow up, 85 S. Liberty  
1701 – intrusion alarm, BHS  
2328 – suspicious situation, 38 Menlo Park Dr.  
**Thursday, April 4:**  
0028 – suspicious person, 25 Main St.  
0659 – disturbance, 378 E. Huron River Dr.  
0715 – E-911 cellular, 211 Astor  
0739 – water leak found, Angola St./E. Huron River Dr.  
1022 – miscellaneous complaint, 187 N. Edgemont  
1130 – fraud, 6 Main St.  
1243 – PPO violation, 136 S. Biggs  
1346 – abandoned auto, N. Biggs Ave./Potter Dr.  
1355 – warrant arrest, 22 Carmell St.  
1818 – juvenile complaint, Carmell/Belle Villa  
1910 – intrusion alarm, BHS  
2013 – assault & battery, Belle Villa  
2155 – agency assist, 78 Maple  
2228 – follow up, 195 Belle Villa Blvd.  
**Friday, April 5:**  
1256 -- malicious destruction of property, 148 W. Columbia Ave.  
1507 – found property, 149 South St.  
1530 – trespassing, 26 Loza Lane  
1635 – bank drop, 6 Main  
1732 – assist fire dept., 254 E. Huron River Dr.  
2052 – neighbor trouble, 275 W. Columbia Ave.  
**Saturday, April 6:**  
0657 – assist fire dept., 4 Capistrano Ct.  
1512 – animal complaint, 140 Biggs Ave.  
2047 – found property, 248 Main St.  
2141 – suspicious vehicle, 25 Owen  
Also on this week’s log are 98 traffic stops.

**One Call Does It All . . .  
. . . At the Independent  
699-9020**

## Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

**Sunday, March 31:**  
0013 – animal complaint, 47000 bl. Wear Rd.  
0301 – malicious destruction of property, 21000 bl. Fenster  
0616 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter  
1229 – property damage accident, 51000 bl. Willis  
1310 – suspicious incident, Willow/Sumpter  
1509 – juvenile complaint, 17000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1602 – follow-up investigation, 48000 bl. Wear  
1826 – threats complaint, Texas  
1931 – 911 hangup, 43000 bl. Arkona Rd.  
1947 – traffic hazard, Willow/Haggerty  
2154 – suspicious incident, 21000 bl. Karr Rd.  
2206 – down wires, Martinsville/Clay  
**Monday, April 1:**  
0252 – violation of park rules, 24000 bl. Sherwood  
0847 – animal complaint, Edgewood  
1127 – malicious destruction of property, 11000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.  
1308 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.  
1406 – fire dept. assist, Magnolia  
2017 – alarm, 28000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
2052 – malicious destruction of property, Bohn/Wear  
2105 – warrant arrest, out of township  
2126 – suspicious person, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.  
2247 – animal complaint, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.  
2258 – family trouble, Birch  
2333 – animal complaint, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.  
2344 – suspicious vehicle, 44000 bl. Dunn Rd.  
**Tuesday, April 2:**  
1041 – suspicious incident, 42000 bl. Harris Rd.  
1234 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
1258 – suspicious vehicle, Birch  
1345 – warrant arrest, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1354 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter  
1359 – alarm, 28000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1449 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter  
1458 – suspicious vehicle, 45000 bl. Kozma Rd.  
1503 – alarm, 27000 bl. Sherwood Rd.  
1553 – well-being check, 45000 bl. Wear Rd.  
1558 – suspicious incident, Sumpter/Arkona  
1620 – alarm, 28000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1704 – malicious destruction of property, Stonecrest  
1757 – animal complaint, 22000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1919 – civil dispute, 28000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2123 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter  
**Wednesday, April 3:**  
0001 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter  
0032 – animal complaint, 28000 bl. Haggerty Rd.  
0141 – suspicious incident, Greenmeadow  
0330 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter  
0916 – animal complaint, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.  
0922 – fire dept. assist, 47000 bl. Willis Rd.  
1032 – traffic hazard, 43000 bl. Willow Rd.  
1129 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Karr Rd.  
1312 – alarm, 28000 bl. Elwell Rd.  
1330 – fire dept. assist, Arizona  
1526 – follow-up investigation, 36000 bl. S. Huron  
1730 – suspicious incident, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.  
1736 – property damage accident, Greenmeadow  
1801 – suspicious incident, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.

1854 – reckless driving complaint, Willow / Sumpter  
2042 – suspicious incident, Colorado  
2115 – alarm, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
2130 – suspicious incident, 19000 bl. Sharon Ct.  
2251 – disorderly person, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.  
2351 – breaking & entering, Georgia  
**Thursday, April 4:**  
0133 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter  
0925 – harassment complaint, Greenmeadow  
1013 – trespassing complaint, Edgewood  
1109 – trespassing complaint, Edgewood  
1109 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Martinsville Rd.  
1123 – trespassing complaint, Rustic Lane  
1443 – fire dept. assist, Birch  
1457 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter  
1517 – abandoned vehicle, Carriage Lane  
1727 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1733 – suspicious vehicle, 11000 bl. Rawsonville  
1825 – alarm, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.  
2256 – assist other agency, 21000 bl. Fenster  
2305 – animal complaint, 44000 bl. Judd Rd.  
**Friday, April 5:**  
0238 – citizen assist, 48000 bl. Willow Rd.  
1027 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter  
1030 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.  
1036 – larceny, 20000 bl. Karr Rd.  
1117 – 911 hangup, Edgewood  
1500 – property damage accident, Willis/Sumpter  
1746 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.  
2102 – assist other agency, Rustic Lane  
2113 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Judd / Fenster

2321 – family trouble, Rustic Lane  
**Saturday, April 6:**  
0734 – assist other agency, out of township  
1230 – fraud complaint, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1306 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Willis  
1414 – family trouble, Montana  
1503 – 911 hangup, 25000 bl. Haggerty Rd.  
1612 – ORV complaint, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.  
1637 – follow-up investigation, 48000 bl. Wear  
1738 – suspicious person, Sumpter/Wear  
1829 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Dunn Rd.  
2026 – missing person, 49000 bl. Wear Rd.  
2056 – follow-up investigation, 23000 bl. Sumpter  
2300 – animal complaint, Nevada  
Also on this week’s log are 39 miscellaneous details, 141 patrol checks, and 39 traffic stops.

## Michigan Retailers Assn. sets breakfast, discussion for Belleville retailers

LANSING — The Michigan Retailers Association is inviting Belleville-area retailers to a complimentary continental breakfast and open discussion concerning strategies and trends for improving business.  
The event will be held at 8:30 a.m. April 25 at the Charhouse restaurant, 524 Main Street in Belleville.  
To register for the event call Susan Andrews at 800-366-3699, ext. 360, or email [sandrews@retailers.com](mailto:sandrews@retailers.com).

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**541 E. Huron River Dr.  
Belleville, MI**

**734-697-8533**

**MOVING SALE SPECIAL**

**\$49<sup>95</sup> FRONT END  
ALIGNMENT**

*Includes Free Spring Inspection.*  
*with coupon • Not valid with any other offer.*  
Absolute Auto Care Coupon • Expires April 30, 2013. BAI



# Fire

(continued from page 1)

Fire Departments provided additional equipment and manpower.

“We are grateful for our neighbors’ helping hands,” Chief Besson said.

Fire fighters remained on the scene to make sure any smoldering fires had been extinguished. The last fire unit cleared at 3:05 a.m.

The VBT Fire Department had 22 fire fighters on the scene and nine other fire fighters who responded from the neighboring departments.

Rumors circulating on Facebook reported it took the VBT Fire Department 35 minutes to arrive on the scene and an email sent out to the Homestead Homeowners Association by one of their board members reported that VBT was fighting a fire in

Sumpter Township and so didn’t have anyone available to send. Both statements are false, Chief Besson said.

The North Duty Crew was on another call in VBT and couldn’t respond immediately, Chief Besson said.

## Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, April 11** – Ginger Bruder will tell about “Women in the Civil War” at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library as part of the Homegrown Knowledge Series. Free.

• **Friday, April 12, and Saturday, April 13** – Columbia Court, 275 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville, is holding a bake sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days to raise funds for activities. The sale is in the Community

Room.

• **Friday, April 12** – Friends Family Theater FREE Friday Movie 7 p.m. with Bounce House at 6:45 p.m. In Youth Center, 7890 Tuttle Hill Road (at Bemis Road), Ypsilanti. Movie Questions, 482-5074 or [www.friendsfamilytheater.com](http://www.friendsfamilytheater.com)

• **Saturday, April 13** – Friends of the Library meet 10-11:30 a.m. at the library to discuss business and learn what the Friends are all about.

• **Saturday, April 13** – Belleville High School opens its pool to the general public for family swims, 2-5 p.m. Cost \$5 per person. Children must be toilet trained, as swim diapers are not allowed. Only Coast Guard Approved PFDs (life jackets) are allowed.

• **Saturday, April 13** – St. Stephen’s School in New Boston invites you to a Mardi Gras Auction starting at 5 p.m. 52-card and 50/50 raffles, classroom projects, strolling food tables, entertainment, silent auctions and live auction. 734-752-9455

• **Thursday, April 18** – The Other Book

Group meets at 7 p.m. at different local restaurants. Call the library at 699-3291 for tonight’s location. They will be discussing “The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet” by David Mitchell.

• **Thursday, April 18** – Russell Dore will speak on “Henry Ford: His Life and Times” at 7 p.m. at the Belleville Area Museum.

• **Friday, April 19** – Belleville, Van Buren and Sumpter Police and Fire Departments will play a basketball game beginning at 7 p.m. at the Belleville High School gymnasium to benefit St. Vincent DePaul of Belleville. Tickets \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door.

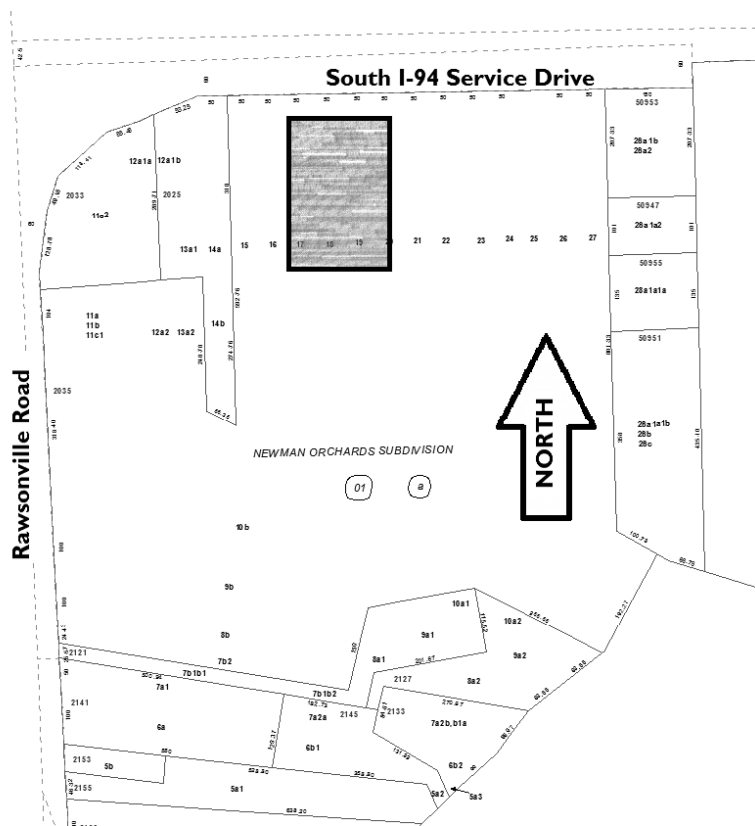
• **Friday, April 19** – Friends Family Theater FREE Friday Movie at 7 p.m., with Bounce House at 6:45 p.m. In Youth Center, 7890 Tuttle Hill Road (at Bemis Road), Ypsilanti. Featuring “Nature of God: Great Lakes Discoveries” & “What Katie Did”. Movie Questions (734) 482-5074 or [www.friendsfamilytheater.com](http://www.friendsfamilytheater.com)

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, and County of Wayne, Michigan, 48111 on **Wednesday April 24, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.** to consider a temporary land use request on the following described property.

Lakewood Shopping Plaza, 2095 Rawsonville Road, is the subject location of this hearing. This site is located on the east side of Rawsonville Road south of the South I-94 Service Drive:



The applicant, Phantom of Michigan, is requesting Temporary Land Use that extends beyond the allowable seven (7) consecutive days. Longer Temporary Land Use operating periods require a Public Hearing. This hearing is being held due to the requirements found under the Temporary Land Uses, Buildings, and Structures Section 20.443 of the Zoning Ordinance. Written comments will be accepted at the Department of Developmental Services until 4:00 p.m., the hearing date.

In the spirit of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Department of Developmental Services at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the meeting, if requesting accommodations.

Published: April 11, 2013

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Charter Township of Van Buren Planning Commission will hold a public hearing in the Board of Trustees Room, 46425 Tyler Road, Charter Township of Van Buren, and County of Wayne, Michigan, 48111 on **Wednesday April 24, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.** to consider a special land use request on the following described property.

Parcel number V125-83-121-99-0008-000, also known as 50240 Martz Road, and V125-83-124-99-0001-003 are impacted by this request. These parcels are located on the north and south sides of Martz Road between Hoeft and Rawsonville Roads:



**Denny's Barber Shop &**

**Celebrating Our 1 Year Anniversary!**

**36 Main Street  
Downtown Belleville  
734-697-4485**

**Haircut**

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**Add Argan Oil Treatment for \$10**

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**Full Set Nails or Shellac Mani**

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**Custom Made Celebrity Hair Extensions**

**Starting at \$199.95** (\$400 Value)

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**Wash, Cut, Hilite, Moroccan Argan Oil Treatment & Blowout**

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SUPER CREW XLT 4X4**



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**UP TO \$7,000 IN REBATES.**

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